## SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

Editorial Opinions of the Leading Journals upon Current Topics-Compiled Every Day for the Evening Telegraph.

AN INTERNATIONAL COURT OF ARBI-TRATION.

Prom the N. Y. Times. A good cause is often only injured by so. phistical arguments. A change in interna-tional law which shall give the world the benefit of a permanent "Court of Arbitration" between nations, is exceedingly desirable. In supporting this reform, however, a speaker in this city recently urged that a similar court had been established in America between communities which are quite as populous and powerful as many States and Kingdoms in Europe-referring to the formation of the United States Supreme Court -to adjudicate differences and disputes between the States of this Union. He compared the territory of Texas with that of France, the population of New York with that of Sweden, and the wealth of our separate States with the resources of individual kingdoms or States in Europe; and he argued that if States so powerful as ours, with different occupations, and often different races of men, are willing to submit all their differences and quarrels to a court of arbitration and implicitly abide by its decisions, then surely the second rate powers of Europe might be expected to abide by the decisions of a court they should themselves form. And if they were willing to construct a court of arbitration and submit to its sentence or adjudication, then certainly other and greater powers might do the same.

This argument, presented with much gravity, and with an imposing array of comparison in figures of population and wealth, seems to us very like special pleading. Our States are not sovereign, like the European: they have not a past history, each of hostility to others, and of independent existence. There is no difference of creed between them, or jealousy from old struggles, or radical diversity of interests. Above all, they have come from one homogeneous peopleone in language, history, and character. The Government itself sprang from the people, not the States. And our court of arbitration was but a part of our Government, formed by the people to adjudicate on a more important class of cases -- not arrangement between sovereign States, whereby they their independence for the sake of a reasonable arbitration in their disputes. Any other theory of the Supreme Court or the Federal Government would justify secession.

A nearer analogy to our court would be the formation of a Supreme German Court in the new Empire or Confederacy of Germany. The very obstacle in Europe to such a court is precisely what we escape here. Our people are one, and we have uniform laws and the same government. No jealousy now prevents a perfect submission to the decisions of our court. But to suppose that Sweden and Switzerland and Denmark can come together and agree to a binding code of laws, as easily as New York, Pennsylvania, and Illinois, is to ignore the real difficulties in the way of a most necessary reform.

The obstacle which first strikes the mind against the formation of an International Court in Europe is the difficulty of securing obedience to its decisions when formed. It is said: -We had an International Court in regard to Luxemburg; in regard to the neutralization of the Black Sea and the integrity of the Danish Duchies: and of what use were its agreements? Each member of the High Court does now as it likes." We admit the weight of the objection. But all progress in the relation of nations is a result not so much of force as of public opinion. There is nothing to prevent the Germans treating their French prisoners any differently from the way in which the Romans used to treat the Carthagenian prisonersmurdering or making them slaves-except the general opinion of Europe. There is probably nothing now to prevent Germany swallowing up Denmark or Belgium but the silent decisions of that High Court which even Bismarck dreads—the general opinion of the civilized world. This opinion—the voice of common sense and universal justicehas become partly embodied now in laws which have no Sheriffs to execute and no universal Judges to proclaim. International law has no force behind it except opinion of mankind. It commands no posse, controls no constable, calls upon no soldiery. It sits silent among the nations, dispensing its verdicts of justice and reason, restraining revenge and passion, softening the horrors of war, controlling popular passion, guarding the prisoner and captive, protecting the weak, shielding the wounded, and defending the rights of the peaceful and the neutral; and for all this, it has no power except the sentiment of the civilized world. If its verdicts or decisions are despised or disobeyed, the only redress is that the complainant or the injured should take the law in their own hands, and inflict their own pnnishment. Now it is conceivable that a solemn con-

gress of all European nations, meeting and forming a formal court of arbitration, with definite rights and a precise mode of procedura before it, agreeing that no quarrel should come to blows till it had been submitted to this court, and its decision had been rendered; it is conceivable, we say, and not improbable, that such a court might even without force, come to have in Europe somewhat the weight which international law has now. It would embody the opinion of the civilized world. In a doubtful case, an ambitious potentate or an ambitious people might not venture to rush to arms directly against a verdict given by so wise, imposing, and impartial a tribunal. At all events, the waiting for a decision would give time for calm consideration, and for that sober second thought to which even ambitious rulers are not always indifferent. It is also among the possibilities of the future that the united powers of Europe might agree, after the terrible fruits of the present wars, to guarantee such a Supreme Court the force necessary to execute its decisions and thus check sudden and unprovoked wars. A reform such as this is, as the abolition of slavery looked fifteen years since, apparently far in the distance. Still an idea founded on justice and humanity needs only time-its ultimate victory is certain.

THE NEW PUCELLE.

P. om the N. Y. Teibune. Disappointed in De Paladines, France seems to have found a new leader in a holy maid of Tours. It is indeed rather inconsistent to think of Garibaldians marching to victory under the banners of a miracle-working entinsiast, and the same people who

inspiration from the visions of a devotee; but many strange things have been witnessed in France during the last five months, and stranger still may come to pass before the invaders are home again across the Rhine. There was an humble imitator of the historic Joan some weeks ago at Orleans; but she turned out to be rather a commonplace young person, who neither rode horseback, nor earried a flashing blade, nor made prophecies; she only rallied the people by a certain feminine eloquence, and then turned them over to the recruiting sergeant to practise the goose-step and the manual of arms in the ordinary prosaic fashion. The Maid of Orleans soon faded from the public view; the Maid of Tours seems to be a different and more romantic sort of creature. Born in the pious parish of Ars, where the whole population-thanks to the reputed miraculous powers of the Cure M. Vianney-have lived for years in an atmosphere of supernaturalism, believing that Heaven daily interposed to heal the sick, to straighten the deformed, to feed the starving-hearing strange voices in the air, and seeing strange and beautiful visions, encompassed all the while by crowds of pilgrims who came in thousands to this place to be cured of their ills, or to ask spiritual cournel of the humble ascetic who passed all his days here in the service of the poor, it is only natural that from childhood she should have witnessed miraculous sights and been the hersine of wonderful legends. She was in service at Tours when the Virgin appeared and ordered her to proceed to Paris and deliver a certain message to General Trochu. The girl consulted her mistress; the mistress consulted the cure; the cure consulted the bishop; the bishop gave the young woman his blessing, and bade her do as the vision had commanded. Thus far there is nothing extraordinary in

the story. We dare say scores of excitable young French girls have believed themselves the depositaries of some divine commission, and have dreamed wild dreams, and in moments of spiritual exaltation seen unreal sights and fancied that Heaven meant them to animate and direct the defenders of their country. But this case derives its interest from the fact that so many comparatively prudent and sober people share the delusions of the obscure serving-maid, and bolieve that God has really chosen this rueaus of testifying His displeasure with Bismarch and conveying to the prestrate French the promise of His assistance. The Union of Tours puts implicit faith in the young woman, visions and all, and gives us ome curious particulars about the nature of her message. Precisely what she should say to General Trochu was not to be revealed until she arrived before the gates of Paris. There "a matron of respectable appearance" would meet her and explain the errand in full. The narrative goes on to assure us that the girl accomplished her journey and saw Trochu. We are told little about her mysterious communication, except that she announced the recapture of Orleans (which sha could not then have known by any human means), predicted a successful sortie to be followed by depressing news, and declared that the Kaiser would never re-enter Berlin.

This account would have been more satisfactory if it had explained how the holy maid got through the Prussian lines (where miraculous visions would not have been of much use to her), and why the saints of the Roman calendar should take such excellent care of a nation which has just broken off a concordat and is understood to be not very devoutly inclined towards the Roman Church. But with all these defects, it finds plenty of believers, and doubtless Tours and Paris are wonderfully encouraged in coasequence. We may ridicule it-as of course we shall-but the curiously exalted state of the public mind in France which welcomes such delusions is certainly worth considering. It indicates a temper strangely like the noble but unreasonable enthusiasm which gave birth to the crusades -a temper in which a people is capable of any sacrifice or any generous impulse, and entirely blind to common considerations of prudence and sound policy. People in this temper never know when they are beaten, and in dealing with them the ordinary principles of military science are entirely at fault. It is impossible not to admire their elevation of spirit, even while we grieve at their folly; but we should not forget that enthusiesm will not keep off defeat forever, and the disaster, when it can no longer be concealed, is all the more crushing in consequence of the resolution with which the people have refused to foresee it.

SAVINGS BANKS AND LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES.

From the N. Y. Sun.

The proceedings just taken against the Great Western Mutual Life Insurance Company can hardly fail to set the large body of life policy-holders among us to some very serious thinking. If a company which a year ago reported itself as perfectly solvent and possessed of an unimpaired capital could, as the Great Western Mutual confessedly has done, lose in the subsequent twelve months not only its whole capital, but an amount equal to twenty-five per cent. of that capital in addition, the inquiry may well be made as to the prospective soundness of all companies engaged in the same business. Of course there must be some of them worthy of confidence, and these latter ought not to suffer for the mismanagement of the rest; but how are their customers to know the difference? No one but a most expert accountant and figancier can draw conclusions worth anything from the mass of figures presented by the officers of these institutions; and, admitting that their statements are honestly made up. they are perfectly valueless to ninety-nine out of a hundred people who are interested in them. The whole thing has the air of a huge confidence game, in which the policyholders pay their money on trust; and as no claim arises on their policies till after their death, they can never know whether they are swindled or not.

It really looks as though the old-fashione l system of putting money in a savings bank was, after all, a wiser method of investing one's surplus earnings than the newer and apparently more profitable fashion of insuring one's life. Where a man is engaged in some dangerous business, or is in deligate health, the life insurance provides for his family in case of his premature death; but in ninety-nine cases out of a nundred he will leave them quite as much money by investing, year by year, in a savings bank, the amount he would pay as premiums, besides the advantage of always keeping it under his own control. As the Mississippi boatman remarked, he is not playing a game in which he must die to win. He can keep watch of his investment from day to day, and protect himself by withdrawing it if he sees anything that awakens his apprehension. But if he insures his life, he is practically without any

This is a good time of the year to consider this subject. The season of the year has just begun during which deposits in savings banks may be made so as to draw interest for the ensuing six months. An industrious, economical man, who is in the receipt of an income ever so little beyond his actual necessities, cannot do a better thing than to select some reputable incorporated savings institution, managed by officers whom he knows favorably, either personally or by reputation, and opening an account with it. Many a dollar which he would otherwise waste will find its way to this place of deposit, and he will be surprised and delighted, after a very short time, to find how much the aggregate of these dollars will amount to. And if, by and by, he finds a more profitable way of investing his accumulations, he can take up the whole of them not only undiminished, but with interest added. Only try it, and see how it is for yourself.

PARIS NOT YET BOMBARDED-TRO-CHU'S TACTICS.

From the N. Y. Herald. Our special despatches from Versailles enable the reader to form a clear idea of the military situation before the French capital. Our correspondent, writing on the 29th ult., reports that the expected bombardment had not begun at that date. As a consequence of this dilatoriness the German troops were becoming dissatisfied. It appears, however, that the failure to bombard was due to causes which will probably protect Paris from a storm of shot and shell for some time yet. The Germans have not a sufficient number of large guns at hand, and they have been compelled to concentrate such as they have at one particular point, with the object of capturing or silencing one or more of the forts. But before they can accomplish this they must overcome obstacles which, at the present moment, appear insurmountable. Altogether, our correspondent is of opinion that the French forts will give the German batteries full employment to keep them from doing much injury to the investing line. It is true that the effectiveness and calibre of the French guns have probably been overrated; but granting this, the fact remains that while the Germans may finally succeed in reducing one or more of the forts, it will only be after a severe struggle.

This exposition puts a somewhat different feature to the situation before Paris than the previous reports had given it. In addition, it appears as if all the German armies in the open field have been thrown on the defensive. Prince Frederick Charles must now passively oppose Chanzy's army, contenting himself with preventing the French from approaching too near the besieged capital. All operations in the provinces are thus suspended until Paris falls. General Von Moltke has evidently decided that the most important thing for the Germans to do is to compel Trochu to surrender. Paris is regarded as the heart of France. Strike Paris and the whole country will yield. Such is the conclusion we draw from a perusal of our correspondent's despatch.

But may not Von Moitke be somewhat disappointed in the result of his present operations before Paris? Is it not possible that he will get the city without the garrison? A despatch from Bordeaux published on Monday contains a denial that Trochu is preparing an intrenched camp around Fort Mont Valerien, his purpose being to evacuate Paris and occupy this camp. Yesterday it was reported from London that since the abandonment of Fort Avron by the Frenchall the forts have been silent. This silence may be vert significant. It may mean that Trochu is quietly removing his artillery, ammunition, and provisions to Mont Valerien, preparatory to abandoning Paris. Such a movement would be good generalship. If, as is stated, Paris now contains provisions for the entire population and garrison for two months, the supply will enable the garrisou alone to hold out for eight months longer. And besides, with the French in possession of Mont Valerien, Paris will be actually at their mercy. In a few days, however, we shall doubtless learn what the tactics of Trochu are-whether he proposes to remain in the city and fight to the last or to abandon the place and retire to the great fortress, the shadows of whose guns fall almost across the bastions surrounding

THE LOGIC OF MURDER. From the N. Y. World.

The "dishonored" husband who occasionally takes such explosive methods of advertising the general public of a dishonor rather his wife's than his own has just been outdone in California by the injured brother. It seems that young Mr. Gunn, of San Francisco, some days ago received a letter which, with the modesty of true beneficence, the writer omitted to sign, kindly mentioning, as a fact that must be gratifying to a brother's feelings, that one Mr. Murphy had seduced the sister of Mr. Gunn fifteen years before. Mr. Gunn, to whom this was the first announcement of a circumstance of some natural interest to the Gunn family, sought his sister and ascertained from her that his correspondent's information was correct. With that thoughtful tenderness for his sister's welfare which is so beautiful in brothers, Mr. Gunn then perforated Mr. Murphy, and related the whole story to the authorities, and through them to the general public, whose opinion, in San Francisco, we are told "fully

Of course, if a man considers that his sister's shame is a legitimate subject of public curiosity, and having, after fifteen years of what appears to have been correct conduct on her part, heard from some scoundrel of her early error, scorns to confine the knowledge to his own breast and compals the attention of his fellows to it, nobody can say him nay. But when he kills another upon the pretext thus furnished him it is evident that the wrong is not in any way mitigated, but in every way intensified. The sister who might have led the rest of her life blamelessly, is held up by what purports to be brotherly love to public scorn. The man who had done her the injury which her "avenger" alone made an irreparable injury, is dead. Gunn himself, whether or not he is acquitted, has rendered himself a social outlaw. And the only person who has gained anything by the transaction is the wretch who wrote the letter which brought on the tragedy. He has fed fat the grudge which he certainly bore to Murphy, and which it is very probable he bore to Gunn's sister, and Gunn bas become his cat's-paw, and taken the vengeance the other was too cowardly to

take for himself. As for Gunn's motive, it is clear from the whole story that his sister's good name and his own-everything that was at stake for him, and might have been saved-has been lost by this slaughter. He acted neither from reflection, nor from love, nor from an intelligible pride, but simply from the reckless fury which makes all murderers what they are, and which it is the care of government and called the Paladines a traitor because he at. remedy except that of losing all or nearly society to bridle. It is only by learning to

tended a military mass taking their warlike | all he has already sunk by refusing to sink | bridle it that a man deserves to be called a civilized being, and for letting it loose he

deserves to be called a savage. On Sunday night, a day after this murder in San Francisco, there was a marder in some ways similar in Brooklyn. Moylan killed Haggerty in what at first appeared a drunken quarrel, but what turned out to be the fulfilment of a feud. The men had been enemies for years. The origin of bheir enmity was "a love affair." The unsuccessful man hated his successful rival, and nursed his hatred until it has now broken out in murder. Yet the same man who will see that Moylan is a savage, and demand his exeoution, will say that Gunn is a bero and demand his acquittal, because Gunn presents himself as the champion of a woman's honor, and although his swiftness to shed blood alone has ruined her honorable name for-

There is no safe rule but this, that the vendetta is a barbarity of which the frequent practice discredits and the universal sanction destroys the claim of a nation to civilization, and that private vengeance is always a proper object of public retribution.

A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION.

From the Harrisburg State Journal. We see a report of very indecorous behavior at New York on the occasion of a meeting of the "American Institute" designed to take from Philadelphia the precedence claimed by the last-named city in organizing a centennial celebration for 1876. It was some time since proposed to organize a general celebration of the industry of the country at Philadelphia, and various municipal steps have been taken to that end. Mr. Morrell has also introduced a bill into the House of Representatives authorizing such selebration. though, we believe, not proposing to make any expenditure on the part of Congress. Up to a few days since, we had not supposed there would be a suggestion to hold a celebration at any other point than Philadelphia, but suddenly a meeting of the American In-stitute at New York is held to claim that the original proposition belonged to that society, that the Institute exhibitions for a long series of years have entitled it to eminence in that line, and that Congress should pass Mr. Cleveland's bill, and not Mr. Morrell's

But we fear that Mr. Alanson Nash spoiled the opportunity opening so happily for the American Institute. In all our experience of disorderly proceedings, nothing so extreme as the contest Mr. Nash got up in that meeting has been known. Vehement as the controversy was, we are wholly unable to ascertain what it was about; but a contest there was. Mr. Nash refused to be put down, and he refused to be put out. A vote was taken on his expulsion, which expulsion was duly ordered-28 to 9; but still Mr. Nash held his position inside the room as a spectator, however the chairman resisted.

The slight clue given in the report of this meeting to the cause of such fierce contention suggests an entanglement of the site of the proposed celebration with the cattle-yards in the neighborhood of 99th street, as a job in which the money and means of the Institute would be irretrievably sunk. To prevent such a job, and such irretrievable sinking of money, let the centennial be held at Philadelphia. Mr. Alanson Nash does not live there, nor does any other contentious man of

REAL ESTATE AT AUCTION.

NOTICE.-BY VIRTUE AND IN EXECUTION of the powers contained in a Mortgage exe THE CENTRAL PASSENGER RAILWAY COMof the city of Philadelphia, bearing date of eighteenth of April, 1863, and recorded in the office for recording deeds and mortgages for the city and county of Philadelphia, in Mortgage Book A. C. H., No. 56, page 465, etc., the undersigned Trustees named in said Mongage

WHIL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION,
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MESSES. THOMAS & SONS, AUCTION EERS, at 12 o'clock M., on TUESDAY, the fourteenth day of February, A. D. 1871, the property described in and conveyed by the said Mortgage, to wit:—

No. 1. All those two contiguous lots or pieces of ground, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate on the east side of Broad street, in the city of Philadelphia, one of them beginning at the distance of nineteen feet seven inches and five-eights southward from the southeast cor-ner of the said Broad and Coates streets; thence extending eastward at right angles with said Broad street eighty-eight feet one inch and a half to ground now or late of Samuel Miller; thence southward along said ground, and at right angles with said Coates street, seventy-two feet to the northeast corner of an alley, two feet six inches in width, leading southward into Penn street; thence west ward, crossing said alley and along the lot of ground hereinsfter described and at right angles with said Broad street, seventy-nine feet to the east side of the said Broad street; and thence northward along the east line of said Broad street seventy-two feel to the place of beginning. Subject to a ground-rent of \$280, silver money. No. 2. The other of them situate at the northeast

corner of the said Broad street and Penn street, containing in front or breadth on the said Broad street eighteen feet, and in length or depth eastward along the north line of said Penn street seventy-four feet and two inches, and on the line of said lot paral-lel with said Penn street, seventy-six feet five inches and three-fourths of an nch to said two feet six inches wide alley. Subject to ground rent of \$72, sal-No. 3. All that certain of or piece of ground be-

ginning at the southeast corner of Coates street and Broad street, thence extending southward along the said Broad street nineteen feet seven Inches and five-eighths of an inch: thence eastward eighty fee one inch and one-half of an inch; thence north-ward, at right angles with said Coates street, nine feet to the south side of Coates street, and thence reet to the south side of Coates street, and thence westward along the south side of said Coates street ninety feet to the place of beginning.

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The WYOMING will sail for Savannah on Saturday, January 7, at S.A. M.
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The ROUGH BILLS OF LADING given to all the principal towns in Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Tennessee in connection with the Central Railrond of Georgia, Atlantic and Gulf Hallroad, and Florida steamers, at as low rates as by competing lines.

SEMI-MONTHIA LINE TO WILMINGTON, N. O.
The PIONEER will sail for Wilmington on Wednesday, January Hat 6 A. M. Returning, will leave Wilmington Wednesday, January H. Connects with the Caps Fear River Steamboat Company, the Wilmington and Weldon and North Carolina Railreads, and the Wilmington and Manchestef Railread te all interior points.

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Steamers are appointed to sail as follows:— City of Brussels, Saturday, January 7, at 2 P. M. City of Limerick, via Haitfax, Tuesday, Jan. 10, at

City of Washington, Saturday. Jan. 14, at 12 noon.
City of Washington, Saturday. Jan. 21, at 2 P. M.
and each succeeding Saturday and alternate Tuesday, from pier No. 45 North river.

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Payable in gold.

Payable in currency.
First Cabin.

275 Steerage.

To London.

S0 To London.

S5 To Paris.

90 To Paris.

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To Halifax.

20 To Halifax.

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Bremen, etc., at reduced rates.

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